

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A combination comprising:

a motor vehicle comprising a vehicle body including (a) a structural member, (b) a mounting element having a post member extending directly from said structural member and a jack engaging surface extending from said post member and facing generally towards said structural member, said jack engaging surface and said post member at least in part defining a jack retaining space, and (c) a releasable jack retainer movable between a jack retaining position and a jack releasing position; and

a jack comprising a plurality of assembled structures including (a) a load rest for engagement with an underside of the vehicle, (b) a base having a ground engaging surface with a ground surface below the vehicle, and (c) a raising and lowering mechanism having a drive element constructed and arranged to have an input force applied thereto, said raising and lowering mechanism being constructed and arranged to translate the input force applied to said drive element into upward and downward movement of said load rest relative to said base for affecting respective raising and lowering movements of the vehicle relative to the ground surface, at least one of said assembled structures having a recess formed on an edge portion thereof;

said jack being positioned in a stored position adjacent said structural member of said vehicle with said edge portion in said jack retaining space such that said post member is received in said recess;

said jack retainer being positioned in said jack retaining position thereof wherein said jack retainer engages another portion of said jack spaced from said edge portion to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said mounting element to thereby maintain said edge portion in said jack receiving space so that (a) said jack engaging surface and said jack retainer cooperate to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member of said vehicle and (b) said jack retainer and said post member in cooperation with said recess substantially prevent said jack from moving generally parallel to said structural member;

said jack retainer being movable to said jack releasing position wherein said jack retainer is disengaged from said another portion of said jack so as to allow said jack to be moved out of said stored position for use by (a) moving said jack generally parallel to said structural member so as to remove said edge portion from said jack receiving space and (b) moving said jack away from said structural member.

2. A combination according to claim 1, wherein said jack engaging surface is provided on a flange extending from said post member in spaced relation to said structural member so that said structural member, said jack engaging surface provided on said flange, and said post member define said jack retaining space.

3. A combination according to claim 2, wherein said another portion of said jack is positioned between said jack retainer in said jack retaining position thereof and said structural member so that the aforesaid cooperation between said flange and said jack retainer to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member is accomplished by both said flange substantially preventing said edge portion from moving away from said structural member and said jack retainer substantially preventing said another portion from moving away from said structural member.

4. A combination according to claim 3, wherein said edge portion with said recess is provided by the base of said jack and wherein said jack in said stored position thereof has the ground engaging surface of said base engaged with said structural member.

5. A combination according to claim 4, wherein said jack retainer comprises a threaded rod extending directly from said structural member and a locking member threaded on said rod for rotational and axial movement along said rod towards and away from said structural member, and said raising and lowering mechanism comprises a pair of articulating arms interconnecting said base to said load rest, said arms constituting said another portion of said jack and defining a rod receiving opening oversized with respect to said rod to accommodate limited relative movement between said jack and said rod;

said jack receiving opening enabling said jack to be positioned in said stored position thereof by moving said jack receiving opening over and along said rod and enabling said edge portion to be positioned in said jack receiving space by moving said jack relative to said rod as accommodated by said rod receiving opening being oversized with respect to said rod;

said locking member in the jack retaining position of said jack retainer being rotationally and axially moved along said rod toward the structural member to engage the arms of said jack such that (a) the aforesaid cooperation between said flange and said jack retainer to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member is

accomplished by both said flange substantially preventing said edge portion from moving away from said structural member and said locking member substantially preventing said arms from moving away from said structural member and (b) the aforesaid cooperation between said jack retainer and said post member to substantially prevent said jack from moving generally parallel to said structural member is accomplished by both said edge portion engaging said post member to substantially prevent movement of said base generally parallel to said structural member and the surfaces of said arms defining said rod receiving opening engaging said rod to substantially prevent movement of said arms generally parallel to said structural member.

6. A combination according to claim 5, wherein said locking member has a camming surface that extends radially and axially with respect to said rod and wherein moving said locking member rotationally and axially along said rod toward said structural member such that said arms of said jack are positioned between said locking member and said structural member causes said camming surfaces to engage an upper one of said jack arms and force said jack toward said mounting element to provide secure engagement between said post member and said edge portion of said base.

7. A vehicle jack configured for storage on a motor vehicle without the use of an intervening bracket, said vehicle comprising a vehicle body including (a) a structural member to which said jack is to be mounted, (b) a mounting element having a post member extending directly from said structural member and a jack engaging surface extending from said post member and facing generally towards said structural member, said jack engaging surface and said post member at least in part defining a jack retaining space therebetween, and (c) a releasable jack retainer movable between a jack retaining position and a jack releasing position; said vehicle jack comprising:

a plurality of assembled structures including (a) a load rest for engagement with an underside of the vehicle, (b) a base having a ground engaging surface for engagement with a ground surface below the vehicle, and (c) a raising and lowering mechanism having a drive element constructed and arranged to have an input force applied thereto, said raising and lowering mechanism being constructed and arranged to translate the input force applied to said drive element into upward and downward movement of said load rest relative to said base for affecting respective raising and lowering movements of the vehicle relative to the

ground surface, at least one of said assembled structures having a recess formed on an edge portion thereof;

said jack being constructed and arranged to be positioned in a stored position adjacent said structural member of said vehicle with said edge portion in said jack retaining space such that said post member is received in said recess to thereby enable said jack retainer to be positioned in said jack retaining position thereof wherein said jack retainer engages another portion of said jack spaced from said edge portion to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said mounting element to thereby maintain said edge portion in said jack receiving space so that (a) said jack engaging surface and said jack retainer cooperate to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member of said vehicle and (b) said jack retainer and said post member in cooperation with said recess substantially prevent said jack from moving generally parallel to said structural member.

8. A vehicle jack according to claim 7, wherein said edge portion with said recess is provided by the base of said jack and wherein said jack in said stored position thereof has the ground engaging surface of said base engaged with said structural member.

9. A motor vehicle including an arrangement for retaining a jack in a stored position thereon without the use of an intervening mounting bracket, said jack comprising a plurality of assembled structures including (a) a load rest for engagement with an underside of the vehicle, (b) a base having a ground engaging surface for engagement with a ground surface below the vehicle, and (c) a raising and lowering mechanism having a drive element constructed and arranged to have an input force applied thereto, said raising and lowering mechanism being constructed and arranged to translate the input force applied to said drive element into upward and downward movement of said load rest relative to said base for affecting respective raising and lowering movements of the vehicle relative to the ground surface, at least one of said assembled structures having a recess formed on an edge portion thereof; said vehicle comprising:

a vehicle body including (a) a structural member to which the jack is to be mounted, (b) a mounting element having a post member extending directly from said structural member and a jack engaging surface extending from said post member and facing generally towards said structural member, said jack engaging surface and said post member at

least in part defining a jack retaining space therebetween, and (c) a releasable jack retainer movable between a jack retaining position and a jack releasing position;

said jack retainer and said mounting element being arranged with respect to one another to enable the jack to be positioned in a stored position adjacent said structural member of said vehicle with the edge portion in said jack retaining space such that said post member is received in said recess;

said jack retainer being constructed and arranged such that in said jack retaining position thereof said jack retainer engages another portion of said jack spaced from said edge portion to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said mounting element to thereby maintain said edge portion in said jack receiving space so that (a) said jack engaging surface and said jack retainer cooperate to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member of said vehicle and (b) said jack retainer and said post member in cooperation with said recess substantially prevent said jack from moving generally parallel to said structural member;

said jack retainer being constructed and arranged such that in said jack releasing position thereof said jack retainer is disengaged from said another portion of said jack so as to allow said jack to be moved out of said stored position for use by (a) moving said jack generally parallel to said structural member so as to remove said edge portion from said jack receiving space and (b) moving said jack away from said structural member.

10. A motor vehicle according to claim 9, wherein said jack engaging surface is provided on a flange extending from said post member in spaced relation to said structural member so that said structural member, said jack engaging surface provided on said flange, and said post member define said jack retaining space.

11. A motor vehicle according to claim 10, wherein, when said jack retainer is in said jack retaining position thereof, said another portion of the jack is engaged between said jack retainer and said structural member so that the aforesaid cooperation between said flange and said jack retainer to substantially prevent said jack from moving away from said structural member is accomplished by both said flange substantially preventing said edge portion from moving away from said structural member and said jack retainer substantially preventing said another portion from moving away from said structural member.

12. A motor vehicle according to claim 11, wherein said jack retainer comprises a threaded rod extending directly from said structural member and a locking member threaded on said rod for rotational and axial movement along said rod towards and away from said structural member.

13. A motor vehicle according to claim 12, wherein said locking member has a camming surface that extends radially and axially with respect to said rod and wherein moving said locking member rotationally and axially along said rod toward said structural member.